

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides a method and an apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprising the steps of producing a beam of laser light and obscuring a low power density part of the laser beam before irradiating a surface location with the laser light so as to remove the surface portion. The apparatus for treating a surface for the removal of a surface portion thereof, comprises a laser source for producing a laser beam for irradiating a surface location with laser light so as to remove the surface portion wherein a low power density part of the laser beam is obscured and does not impinge upon the surface. The obscuration may be effected by a shadow mask and/or a reflective mask.